

REMARKS

The applicants have had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's Office Action of March 30, 2004 and believe this amendment is fully responsive to every point raised by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-7, 9-31, and 33 remain in the application after this amendment is entered.

THE OFFICE ACTION

Claims 1-5, 29, and 30 stand rejected as obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 5,506,887 to Emery et al. (Emery).

Claims 6, 7, 9, 31, and 33 stand rejected as obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 5,890,075 to Cyr et al. (Cyr).

Claims 10-28 are allowed.

Claims 8 and 32 are identified as containing allowable subject matter.

THE ART REJECTIONS

Claims 1-7, 9, 29-31, and 33 Patentably Distinguish Over Emery and Cyr.

The Examiner objected to claim 8, depending from claim 1, and claim 32, depending from claim 29, as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations previously presented in claim 8. Thus, amended claim 1 now essentially reflects previously presented claim 8 in independent form. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and claims dependent thereon (i.e., claims 2-7 and 9) are currently in condition for allowance.

Similarly, claim 29 has been amended to include the limitations previously presented in claim 32. Thus, amended claim 29 now essentially reflects previously presented claim 32 in independent form. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 29 and claims dependent thereon (i.e., claims 30, 31, and 33) are currently in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (i.e., Claims 1-7, 9-31, and 33) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require additional search or examination.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is hereby authorized to telephone Alan C. Brandt or Joseph D. Dreher, at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 25, 2004
Date

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